

**Kathleen Cravero's remarks at Washington Roundtable**  
**23 February 2006**

1. Thank you Julia. I am glad to have the opportunity to acknowledge publicly the invaluable contribution you have made to crisis prevention, recovery and peacebuilding both within UNDP and in the larger system. More than a year after your departure, your views, ideas and concrete action live on – it has been difficult (if not impossible) to fill your shoes but it continues to be an honor to have the opportunity to consolidate your work and achievements at UNDP.

Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery

2. As you can imagine, the Peacebuilding Commission and its related mechanisms (PBSO and PBF) continue to dominate both formal and informal discussions at the UN. The mood is mixed.

**Pro**        ✓ The PBC has been established. The resolution has been passed. Challenge now is to work out membership and terms of reference. UN system has high degree of consensus on TOR (and usefulness) of PBSO. Discussions have brought us together.

**Con**        ✓ Resolution leaves many questions unanswered. Negotiations on membership and TOR are difficult. North-South divisions are playing themselves out in the form of SC, GA, ECOSOC. Issue of permanency is causing further tension.

“Details to be worked out:

- Reporting: SC vs. GA vs. ECOSOC
- Role of ICIS
- Financing
- Membership

✓ Budget for PBSO not yet approved. Some member states are insisting that, in accordance with the resolution, PBSO and PBF be set up “within existing resources.” This means the entire budget (staff etc.) must be found from/reallocated from existing departments and budgets – not easy.

3. What would the value added be of these peacebuilding reforms?  
Through various methods/channels a country will come to the attention of the PBC.
  - Situation: Country X set to sign a peace agreement or have an election four months from now.

Problem: UN team on the ground needs top quality support to help national partners develop a post-peace agreement or post-election plan – i.e. a recovery, peace consolidation or state building strategy. The expertise needed resides in different parts of the system.

Value-added: PBSO can provide facilitation and strategic planning support. PBSO staff goes to country to provide support – leads team.

- ✓ participatory in-country process
- ✓ establish viable national mechanisms
- ✓ benchmarks and indicators

- Situation: Plan gets developed but there is no mechanism to endorse the process and encourage support pending a formal donor conference.

Problem: Plan flounders; opportunity to provide key peace dividend is lost.

Value-added: Peacebuilding Commission can endorse the process (without micro managing content) and raise visibility of country and accelerate formal process (e.g. donor conference).

- Situation: Key aspects of the plan could consolidate peace if implemented immediately.

Problem: Process for funding different aspects of the plan take time. For example, if the SRSG asks UNDP to support security sector reform, the quickest bilateral negotiations with donor can happen in three months. BCPR has TTF through which money can be disbursed in less than 24 hours – but we don't have flexible unearmarked funds to speak of.

Value-added: PBF could be used to provide limited (but reasonable) levels of funding for key actions pending the rest of the system mobilizing appropriately. Note: funding for the plan, requested by the UN team on the ground.

On PBF: Resolution says specifically this should not interfere with existing mechanisms. Many different designs would work – key is flexibility, speed and reliability.

4. In planning for this meeting, David suggested that I try and answer the question: Will the PBC be able to provide/develop “grand strategies” for post-conflict countries?

- ✓ Great question – because it allows me to answer “we hope not”. We don't want the PBC to develop grand strategies. We want it to champion the

development of strategies at country level, validate the processes used and mobilize international support and funding for their implementation. The PBC must be a forum to involve all national stakeholders.

- √ As such, the PBC, the PBSO and the PBF must have the buy-in and involvement of actors both inside and outside the UN system. This includes the World Bank, international NGOs and bilateral donors – which leads us to the next set of remarks.